

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 17th June 2002
REPORT ON: Provision of Summer Childcare in Nursery Schools
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
REPORT NO: 543-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to provide summer childcare provision in nursery schools.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the contents of this Report and:

2.1 agree in principle the provision of summer childcare provision in those nurseries where there is a demand as outlined in this report

2.2 remit the Director of Personnel and Management Services to liaise with the Director of Education to make staffing arrangements for the summer childcare provision

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full costs of these proposals, estimated at £3986, will be met from the Education Revenue budget for early years and childcare services. A detailed financial outline is appended to this Report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These proposals will support and improve access to services, skills and knowledge needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals will strengthen access to childcare over the summer holidays when services are often in short supply.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 Currently nursery schools in Dundee are open during term times only. This means that parents in employment or training require to access alternative services over the holidays. In the summer of 2001 the Education Department provided summer childcare provision at Park Place Nursery, Kirkton Nursery and Woodlea Children's Centre. In addition the voluntary sector group Spectrum ran services for children on the autistic spectrum at Frances Wright Pre-School Centre. The services were well received by parents and by staff. Children benefited by being able to attend the same provision as they do during term time and by being cared for by familiar and experienced staff.

6.2 A proposal to provide all year services in nursery schools was a key part of Dundee's proposals for the Changing Children's Services Fund. Currently this proposal and the others for this funding are under consideration by the Scottish Executive who will

make a decision about deployment of the fund in June 2002. However the Department wishes to make summer childcare services available this summer and planning for this therefore requires to be undertaken now.

- 6.3 Nursery staff have consulted with parents of children attending nursery schools and have provided feedback on demand for services. Consultation with Trades Unions has been undertaken and is ongoing.

7.0 PROPOSAL

- 7.1 It is proposed to offer services in nurseries where there is demand. In cases where demand is very small, parents will be offered services in another nursery. Services will be charged for at a rate of £8 per half day and £15 per full day. Parents will supply a packed lunch and snacks will be provided by nursery staff. Additional cleaning and janitorial services will be negotiated to support the delivery of the services.

- 7.2 Nursery nurse staff who are in employment in nurseries will also be offered the opportunity to work for a number of weeks during the summer break. Staff will be paid an additional allowance at the same rate as nursery nurses are paid during term time. Nursery nurses who are designated as in charge will be paid the Senior Nursery Nurse rate. A ratio of 1 member of staff to 6 children will be maintained and shift arrangements will be in place in order to cover the full day. Staff will be recruited from existing staff groups on a voluntary basis and from the supply pool.

- 7.3 Nursery Head Teachers will be involved in the development of the service and there is clear recognition that flexible and local arrangements will require to be made to best suit the needs and demands of parents and the staff availability. There is also recognition that in order to offer all year services in nurseries there requires to be a review of current staffing arrangements. This is a longer term proposition and the proposals within this report are for interim arrangements to be made to support delivery of service during the coming summer only.

- 7.4 The exact costs of providing this service have been calculated on the basis of the presenting demand and the numbers of staff who will require to be deployed. It is difficult to gauge exactly what levels of service will be taken up since parents are already having to make arrangements for their children. However the cost implications related to this report are based on the most accurate information currently available. For the coming summer, it is proposed to offer childcare services at Park Place Nursery and Jessie Porter Nursery for children attending those nurseries and for those attending other nurseries nearby. The services will run throughout the summer and it is anticipated that most parents will access the service for some of the weeks. All parents who have expressed interest in taking up summer childcare services will be offered provision at these two locations.

- 7.5 A full scale promotion of childcare services in nurseries will be launched when the outcome of the Changing Children's Services Fund proposals is known with a view to offering a higher level of service in subsequent years. The Department is however satisfied that proposed arrangements for the coming summer will meet the presenting demand for services.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 This Report has been the subject of consultation with the Directors of Social Work, Finance and Support Services. In addition relevant employer representatives have been consulted as have Nursery Head Teachers.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

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Director of Education

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Date

Staffing Costs							
Post	Salary	Ni- Ers	Pen- Ers	Total	Cost for Period	No	Grand Total
Park Place Ns							
Senior Nursery Nurses	14618.00	805.22	2104.99	17528.21	2403.06	3.00	7209.18
Auxillary	9669.99	394.53	1392.48	11457.01	1570.72	1.00	1570.72
					Total		8779.90
Jessie Porter Ns							
Senior Nursery Nurses	14618.00	805.22	2104.99	17528.21	2403.06	1.00	2403.06
Auxillary	9669.99	394.53	1392.48	11457.01	1570.72	1.00	1570.72
					Total		3973.78
Cleaning Costs							
Park Place Ns	885.00						
Jessie Porter Ns	860.00						1745.00
Therefore Total Costs							14498.68
Less Estimated Income Generation							
	No of Children*	Daily Rate	Days	Total			
Park Place Ns	15.00	15.00	35.00	7875.00			
Jessie Porter Ns	5.00	15.00	35.00	2625.00			10500.00
Therefore Estimated Cost to Education Department Revenue Budget							3998.68
Notes							
* Budget has been prepared on the basis that 18 Children will take up places at Park Place and 6 at Jessie Porter However income is estimated for 15 and 5 children respectively since not all children will take up fully loaded places.							